

Message Text

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43

ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPT-01 SS-15 SP-02

PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /053 W

----- 016814

R 240700Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2031

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS CGEN AFSP

SUBJ: CONSULAR SERVICES AT GENEVA

REF: A. STATE 11392, B. 75 STATE 250156, C. GENEVA 8135,

D. BERN A-206, 9/23/76

1. I HAVE REVIEWED PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING CONSULAR SERVICES IN THE GENEVA AREA AND AM IN SYMPATHY WITH THE. I ALSO RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN OPENING A NEW POST IN EUROPE, WHEN OTHERS ARE BEING ELIMINATED. THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF PROVIDING THE MOST NEEDED CONSULAR SERVICES TO AMERICANS IN GENEVA AREA.

2. IF DEPT IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN POSITIONS AND MONEY NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT PORPOSAL SET FORTH REF D, THEN EMBASSY SUGGEST A REALLOCATION OF EMBASSY BERN RESOURCES TO IMPROVE SUBSTANTIALLY DELIVERY OF CONSULAR SERVICES TO AMERICANS IN THE GENEVA AREA. THIS WOULD BE DONE BY SENDING ONE AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER AND TWO LOCALS FROM BERN TO GENEVA. THESE THREE EMPLOYEES WOULD CONSTITUTE A BRANCH OF EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION. SERVICES WOULD INCLUDE: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS, PROTECTION AND WELFARE, AND NOTARIAL SERVICES. VISAS WOULD BE ISSUED ONLY FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL

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TO THE UN. CONSULAR SECTION IN BERN, WHICH WOULD BE REDUCED

TO TWO AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE FULL RANGE OF CONSULAR SERVICES FOR ALL OF WESTERN SWITZERLAND. BERN WOULD CONTINUE TO ISSUE IMMIGRATION VISAS FOR ALL OF SWITZERLAND AS WELL AS ADMINISTER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM FOR ALL OF SWITZERLAND. THE CONSULAR DISTRICTS IN SWITZERLAND WOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

3. UNDER PROPOSED RE-ALIGNMENT, CONSULAR SECTION IN GERM WOULD SUPPORT GENEVA BRANCH CONSULAR OFFICE (GBO) BY PROVIDING SUPERVISION, SUBSTANTIVE GUIDANCE AND BACK-UP AMERICAN PERSONNEL WHEN GENEVA CONSULAR OFFICER IS ON LEAVE.

4. THE MISSION IN GENEVA HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE OUT OF ITS ON-GOING PROGRAM, AND AT LITTLE COST, ADEQUATE SPACE AND SUPPORT IN THE MISSION FOR THE EMBASSY'S GBO. SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES FOR THE GBO WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PAID BY EMBASSY BERN AS WOULD THE COST OF OCCASIONAL TDY BY A BERN BASED CONSULAR OFFICER. IN THE EVENT THAT THE DEPT FEELS A FORMAL SAS AGREEMENT IS REQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCES IN APPROPRIATIONS, WE STILL BELIEVE COSTS WOULD BE MINIMAL.

5. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS RE-ALIGNMENT WOULD, AT ONLY MINIMAL ADDITIONAL COST, GO A LONG WAY TOWARD MEETING THE PROBLEM SET FORTH BY THE DEPT IN REF C. EMBASSY HOPES THAT, IF DEPT CANNOT APPROVE THE PROPOSAL SET FORTH REF D, IT WILL APPROVE THIS SUGGESTED RE-ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO BETTER SERVE THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE GENEVA AREA.

6. THE US MISSION IN GENEVA CONCURS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULAR SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERN00367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0529
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760125/aaaaavuh.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION MMO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 11392, 75 STATE 250156, 76 GENEVA 8135
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR SERVICES AT GENEVA
TAGS: CPAS, CGEN, AFSP, SZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006